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# Chess

## SPEED DEMON

Magnus Carlsen comes out on top at the Grand Chess Tour's Blitz and Rapidplay events in Leuven



John Henderson on the Spirit of '66



IM Jose Vilela reports on the Capablanca Memorial



Ten Amazing Moves from Amatzia Avni

# Chess

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# Chess Editorial

By Executive Editor, IM Malcolm Pein @TelegraphChess

Lots of good news and no little intrigue this month. I'm looking forward to the British Championship at Bournemouth which will be under way by the time you read this. Thanks to some serious sponsorship, the line-up includes many of our leading players including Mickey Adams. In these pages I have long been pressing for the British Championships to be a nine day event in order to facilitate the participation of more non-professional FIDE-rated players who would only have to take one week off work. I'm delighted to inform you that this should come to pass at the next championship which will be held at Llandudno in 2017.

Also, in my capacity as ECF International Director, I have been involved in seeking a commercial sponsor for the England team and I'll be able to identify them, a fund manager, shortly. The extra support will mean the teams can fly out a day early and also have a more high-powered training team.

## London Chess Classic Friday 8th - Sunday 17th December

The entry form will be online soon at [www.londonchessclassic.com](http://www.londonchessclassic.com) and the festival will include a two-day Super Rapid with plenty of invited GMs that will begin after the FIDE Open and other sections have concluded. The Grand Chess Tour will climax there and as you receive the magazine, the third leg, the Sinquefeld Cup, will be just underway in Saint Louis.

We have a full report on the Paris and Leuven Grand Chess Tour events inside. Both were highly successful and we hope to repeat them next year. The venues for both were stunning, the Leuven Town Hall dates back to the 15th century and fittingly was filled with fabulous artworks, some of which depicted kings and queens being despatched.

As you will see, Magnus recovered his poise, as he so often does after a setback – see below. Carlsen won at a canter at Leuven, but as a wild card he cannot win the GCT or be eligible for the bonus prize money. This makes Wesley So the leader.

## Real politics and chess politics

In Britain the real politics have been crazy, irrespective of your political persuasion, and a realignment and changing of the guard has been either: concluded, if you are a Conservative; or underway if you support the Labour Party or the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP). For our American



Two Labour politicians and chess players flank Garry Kasparov. Twins Angela (left) and Maria Eagle (right) are supporters of CSC with Angela currently standing to become Labour leader.

readers, I can only draw what I must emphasise are very approximate parallels. You might align the Labour Party with Bernie Sanders, UKIP with Donald Trump and the ruling Conservative Party with the GOP.

There is no evidence to suggest that the UK's new Prime Minister Teresa May is a chess player, but it's entirely possible that one of these days she could find herself across the despatch box from not one, but two chess playing leaders of opposition parties.

The chess-playing twins Angela and Maria Eagle have held positions in a Labour Government and now Angela is standing to be leader of the Labour Party. Angela won a national girls championship and represented England at junior level. At the other end of the British political spectrum there is an even stronger chess player: Jonathan Arnott is standing to be leader of UKIP. Arnott is a Candidate Master, and remains an active player in the 4NCL and Gibraltar.

Here is an example of his prowess. I couldn't help noticing that despite his party's rabidly anti-European stance, Jonathan plays the French Defence enthusiastically.

**C.Howell-J.Arnott**  
4NCL 2015  
French Defence

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3  $\text{\textcircled{d}}2$   $\text{\textcircled{f}}6$  4 e5  $\text{\textcircled{f}}d7$   
5  $\text{\textcircled{d}}3$  c5 6 c3  $\text{\textcircled{c}}6$  7  $\text{\textcircled{e}}2$  cxd4 8 cxd4

f6 9  $\text{\textcircled{f}}f4$   $\text{\textcircled{x}}d4$  10  $\text{\textcircled{w}}h5+$   $\text{\textcircled{e}}7$  11  $\text{\textcircled{d}}g6+$   
hxg6 12 exf6+  $\text{\textcircled{x}}f6$  13  $\text{\textcircled{w}}xh8$   $\text{\textcircled{c}}f7$  14  $\text{\textcircled{w}}h4$   
e5 15  $\text{\textcircled{f}}f3$  e4



15... $\text{\textcircled{d}}xf3+$  16 gxf3  $\text{\textcircled{f}}5$  is the main line, but there is nothing wrong with this and it has the advantage of delivering a speedy knock-out blow if White misses the best move.

16  $\text{\textcircled{d}}g5+?$

Enticing, but losing. Necessary was 16  $\text{\textcircled{d}}xd4$   $\text{\textcircled{b}}4+$  17  $\text{\textcircled{d}}2$   $\text{\textcircled{d}}xd2+$  18  $\text{\textcircled{c}}xd2$   $\text{\textcircled{w}}b6$  (if 18... $\text{\textcircled{w}}a5+$  19  $\text{\textcircled{c}}d1$  exd3 20  $\text{\textcircled{d}}b3$ ) 19  $\text{\textcircled{d}}b3$  and now the computer wants to deflect the white queen from f2 with 19...g5 20  $\text{\textcircled{w}}xg5$  exd3 and there is more uncertainty on the board as well as off it.

16... $\text{\textcircled{c}}g8$  17  $\text{\textcircled{b}}1$   $\text{\textcircled{b}}4+$  18  $\text{\textcircled{c}}d1$

18  $\text{\textcircled{c}}f1$   $\text{\textcircled{w}}b6$  and ... $\text{\textcircled{w}}b5$  is deadly.

18... $\text{\textcircled{d}}g4+$  19 f3 exf3 20 h3  $\text{\textcircled{w}}e7$



21 ♙e4 fxc2+ 22 hxg4 gxh1♙+ 23 ♚xh1 dxe4 24 ♚f1 ♖c7 0-1



One of three candidates standing to be UKIP leader, the 2134-rated Jonathan Arnott.

### Rotten apples to be impeached?

As chess-playing politicians make their moves, the chess politicians within FIDE are jockeying for position also. There is talk that Kirsan Ilyumzhinov could be impeached at the FIDE Congress to take place during the Chess Olympiad at Baku. Ilyumzhinov has been greatly weakened by the action of the U.S. Treasury who put him on the list of people sanctioned for financial links with Syrian President Bashar Assad.

There was the usual bluster from Ilyumzhinov claiming he was on his way to New York to sort it out, but of course no evidence of this emerged. Despite word that he was temporarily stopping, the FIDE website demonstrates he is still acting as if nothing has happened. I rather think that even if he is impeached he would carry on regardless.

### New York or Bust?

This kind of bad publicity and poor image cannot help AGON who are tasked with organising the world championship match. Of course, huge controversy surrounds the

granting of exclusive rights to all FIDE events to AGON, a decision taken by Ilyumzhinov of course. Leaving that aside for the moment, AGON have made grand statements about the match being staged in New York, yet at the GCT tournament in Paris the Carlsen camp confirmed they did not have a contract. Even by FIDE standards, no contract with four months to go is some kind of dubious record.

As I write, we are just 16 weeks away from the scheduled start date of November 9th and AGON's last word was it would be another three to four weeks before details are announced. To confuse matters even more, Karjakin went on the record during the Bilbao tournament to declare he did not want to play in New York. I expect a further move from Russian Chess Federation President Andrei Filatov to bring the match to Moscow. At least that way Kirsan could actually attend! If there is no statement at the closing press conference at Bilbao, suspicions will grow that there are real problems and if the match does not take place in New York or elsewhere in the U.S., AGON's limited credibility will vanish altogether.

### Credit where it is due

I criticised title challenger Sergey Karjakin for refusing to play at Norway Chess and thus avoiding Magnus Carlsen, but he accepted the challenge to play at the Bilbao Chess Masters in a six-player, double-round-robin with the champion, Hikaru Nakamura, Wesley So, Anish Giri and Wei Yi; a tremendous line-up. As we went to press, Carlsen had lost his first round game to Nakamura who thus finally broke his duck in classical chess against his Norwegian nemesis.

Carlsen responded by outplaying Wei Yi, and then Karjakin in a powerful display. I particularly liked 30 ♗d2 in the game below, safeguarding his king in preparation for a pawn storm that destroys the opponent's defences. Carlsen then

demolished Wesley So in 23 moves and after pushing Giro to the brink with Black he was a clear leader at the halfway stage.

### M. Carlsen-S. Karjakin Bilbao 2016 Sicilian Defence

1 e4 c5 2 ♗f3 d6 3 c3 ♗f6 4 ♙e2 g6 4...♗xe4?? 5 ♚a4+ is an old one.

5 0-0 ♙g7 6 ♙b5+

Moving a piece twice in the opening, but 6 d3 and 6 ♚c2 are wimpish.

6...♗c6!?

In theory this is playable, in practice it cedes the centre, the bishop-pair and requires absolute accuracy. 6...♙d7 7 ♙xd7+ ♚xd7 (7...♗fxd7 is also quite playable) 8 ♗e1 0-0 9 d4 cxd4 10 cxd4 d5 is not thought to yield White too much.

7 d4 ♚b6

7...♗xe4?? 8 d5 a6 9 ♙d3 wins.

8 ♙a4 cxd4 9 cxd4 0-0 10 d5



Here 10...♗a5 has been played. Indeed, 11 ♗c3 ♙g4 12 h3 ♙xf3 13 ♚xf3 ♗ac8 14 ♚e2 ♗c4 15 ♙b5 ♚c5 16 b3 ♗a3 was later drawn in Palit-Gopal, Kolkata 2014. Instead, 11 ♙e3



Magnus looks tired and much less focussed than Sergey Karjakin, but that didn't prevent the world champion from completely destroying his next challenger when the two met in Bilbao.

♖xb2 12 ♕d4 ♖b4 seems OK, so 10...♗a5 must come into consideration as getting a knight to c4 is key to Black's scheme of securing counterplay against the b2-pawn and c3-knight.

**10...♗b8 11 ♖c3 ♕g4**

Exchanges help Black as he has less space.

**12 h3 ♕xf3 13 ♖xf3 ♗bd7 14 ♖b1 ♖fc8**

Maybe 14...♖ac8!?

**15 ♕c2 ♗e5 16 ♖e2 ♗fd7**



**17 ♕g5! h6**

17...♕f6 seems better when 18 ♕xf6 ♗xf6 19 ♖h2 can be met by 19...g5! 20 ♖d2 h6 and Black might consider ...♖h7 and ...♖g8 as prophylaxis against f2-f4 and also to begin active operations himself. Then 21 f4 ♗c4 and ...♖e3 is fine for Black. If 21 ♕b3 ♖h7 22 f4?! gxf4 23 ♖xf4 ♖g8 24 ♗e2 ♖g5! Likewise, if 17...♕f6 18 ♕e3 ♖b4 19 ♕b3 ♗c4 or 19...♗c5.

**18 ♕h4**

18 ♕xe7 g5! threatens ...♗g6 or 18...f6 19 ♖e3 ♖c7!

**18...g5 19 ♕g3 ♖a6 20 ♖d1!**



**20...♖c4?!**

Inaccurate; a knight belongs on this square. Instead, 20...b5 21 f4 gxf4 22 ♕xf4 b4 23 ♗e2 ♗c4 24 ♗g3 ♗xb2 25 ♖xb2 ♕xb2 26 ♗f5 shows White's potential to do Black harm on the kingside, but 20...♗c4! was best with counterplay:

a) 21 ♗e2 or 21 ♕b3 are met by 21...♗xb2.

b) 21 ♕d3 ♗c5 22 ♕e2 ♗xb2 23 ♖xb2 ♖a3 may be playable, although White has some play after 24 ♖c2 ♕xc3 25 ♕g4. 21 ♕d3 ♗c5 22 ♕e2 ♕xc3 23 bxc3 ♖xa2 24 ♖a1 ♖b3 25 ♖d4 looks risky for Black.

**21 ♖h1** Avoiding 21 f4 ♗d4.

**21...♖ac8 22 f4 gxf4 23 ♕xf4 ♖b6**

**24 ♖h5 ♗f6 25 ♖f5 ♖d8 26 ♕b3 ♗d4**

**27 ♕xe5 dxe5 28 ♖bd1 ♖d7 29 ♖f3**



**29...♖b4?**

Carlsen is ruthless from here on and I was surprised by this move as even 30 d6 looks promising. An exchange of rooks would have reduced White's attacking chances and gained a tempo. Perhaps Karjakin was worried about 29...♖xd1 30 ♗xd1 heading for f5, but 30...♖c1 31 ♗e3 ♖xf1+ 32 ♖xf1 ♗e8 looks like an adequate counter.

**30 ♗d2!**

A mysterious-looking, but very deep move. Carlsen prepares his pawn storm.

**30...♖f8 31 g4 a5?! 32 ♖g2 ♗h7 33 h4 ♖b6**

It's too late now. The attack will be decisive,

as it is too after 33...♕f6 34 g5 hxg5 35 hxg5 ♕xg5 36 ♖h5 f6 37 ♖g6+ ♖h8 38 ♖h2.

**34 g5 ♖h8 35 ♖fg1 f5**

The last chance to fight was 35...♖g6 36 ♕a4 ♖c8 37 ♖h2 e6 38 dxe6 ♖xe6, although now there is 39 ♖f5 with ♕b3 and ♗d5 to come and capturing on f5 loses a piece.

**36 ♖h3**



**36...♖b4??**

Not that it matters now, as if 36...♗d6 37 gxh6 ♕xh6 38 exf5 ♖xf5 39 ♖xf5 ♖xf5 40 ♖g8#.

**37 gxh6 ♕xh6 38 ♖g3 ♗f6 39 ♖g6**

**♗g4 40 ♖xg4 1-0**



**A very expensive king...** A bidding war erupted at Sotheby's auction in London on July 6th over a medieval chess piece. Described as South Italian and late 13th century, the piece was part of the Robert von Hirsch collection, the pieces having previously been sold at Sotheby's in 1978 for £14,000. The carved walrus ivory king measures just under 3 inches in height (7.2cm), and according to experts was probably produced in Cologne c.1300-1320, making it a classic piece of gothic micro-sculpture. 38 years later it was up for auction again with an estimate of £120,000-£180,000, but fetched £540,000, three times the upper estimate.